

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 H-02 AID-05 SR-02

ORM-01 OPR-02 A-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SCS-03 SS-15 SSO-00

IO-10 /062 W

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P 150815Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO CINCPACFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. NGUYEN MINH TAM, A YOUNG VIETNAMESE LADY WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE OWNER OF THE LONG CHAU, LONG HO AND NAM HAI 6 --THREE SHIPS (OIL TANKERS) WHICH RECENTLY LEFT SINGAPORE WITH REFUGEES ABOARD-- CALLED AT EMBASSY TO EXPRESS CONCERN RE OVERCROWDING OF THESE VESSELS AND POSSIBILITY A FEW VC ABOARD MIGHT TRY TO DIVERT VESSELS TO VIETNAM OR SEIZE THEM AFTER PASSENGERS WERE DISCHARGED AT SUBIC.

MISS TAM SAID SHE HAD MAINTAINED RADIO CONTACT WITH VESSELS, AND WAS INFORMED THAT GOS HAD FORCED EACH VESSEL TO TAKE A TOTAL OF 800 REFUGEES. SHE SAID HER MOTHER WAS ABOARD ONE OF THE VESSELS AND HAD INFORMED HER THAT THE LONG CHAU AND LONG HO WERE HEADING FOR SUBIC, BUT THAT HE NAM HAI 6 WOULD GO TO THAILAND. MISS TAM INTENDS TO GO TO BANGKOK AND THEN TO MANILA TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF THE SHIPS.

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3. MISS TAM SAID THE MASTER OF ONE THE VESSELS WAS

AFRAID THERE WERE A FEW VC ABOARD WHO MIGHT TRY TO SEIZE THE VESSEL AND RETURN IT TO VIETNAM. HE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD HAPPEN ON THE WAY TO SUBIC BECAUSE MOST OF THE PEOPLE DID NOT WISH TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. HOWEVER, HE WAS AFRAID THAT IF MOST OF THE REFUGEES LEFT THE VESSEL AT SUBIC SOME OTHERS MIGHT TRY TO SEIZE THE VESSELS AND SAIL THEM BACK TO VIETNAM.

4. EMBASSY UNABLE TO EVALUATE THIS STORY. HOWEVER, MISS TAM SAYS SHE MAY CALL AT EMBASSY BANGKOK AND DEFINITELY WILL CALL AT EMBASSY MANILA DURING NEXT FEW DAYS (IF SHE CAN OBTAIN VISA FOR PHILIPPINES) TO SEEK ASSISTANCE OF CONSULAR OFFICER. MISS TAM SAID SHE RETURNED FROM U.S. TO HELP HER PARENTS WITH THIS PROBLEM. SHE CLAIMS MANY OF THE PASSENGERS, INCLUDING HER MOTHER, ARE OF CHINESE ETHNIC ORIGIN AND WISH TO SETTLE IN TAIWAN. SHE SAYS SHE IS TRAVELLING ON A VIETNAMESE PASSPORT WHICH HAS A VALID VISA FOR THE U.S.
CRONK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SHIPS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP02062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750170-0907
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750549/aaaabrts.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, VS, SN, RP, VN
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006